

IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO

In re:

THE FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT AND  
MANAGEMENT BOARD FOR PUERTO RICO,

as representative of

THE COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO, *et al.*

Debtors.<sup>1</sup>

PROMESA  
Title III

Case No. 17 BK 3283-LTS  
(Jointly Administered)

In re:

THE FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT AND  
MANAGEMENT BOARD FOR PUERTO RICO

as representative of

PUERTO RICO ELECTRIC POWER  
AUTHORITY,

Debtor.

PROMESA  
Title III

Case No. 17 BK 4780-LTS 2023 JUN 8 PM 4:11

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**JORGE F. GONZALEZ OBJECTION TO THE CONFIRMATION OF THE  
PUERTO RICO ELECTRIC POWER AUTHORITY'S PLAN OF ADJUSTMENT**

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<sup>1</sup> The Debtors in these Title III Cases, along with each Debtor's respective Title III case number and the last four (4) digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number, as applicable, are the (i) Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (Bankruptcy Case No. 17 BK 3283-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3481); (ii) Puerto Rico Sales Tax Financing Corporation ("COFINA") (Bankruptcy Case No. 17 BK 3284-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 8474); (iii) Puerto Rico Highways and Transportation Authority ("HTA") (Bankruptcy Case No. 17 BK 3567-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3808); (iv) Employees Retirement System of the Government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico ("ERS") (Bankruptcy Case No. 17 BK 3566-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 9686); and (v) Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority ("PREPA") (Bankruptcy Case No. 17 BK 4780-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3747). (Title III case numbers are listed as Bankruptcy Case numbers due to software limitations.)

**TO THE HONORABLE DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO**

**COMES NOW JORGE F. GONZALEZ**, as party in interest pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 1109, appearing *pro se* pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1654, and respectfully requests that the Court deny the confirmation of the Modified Second Amended Title III Plan of Adjustment of the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority, ECF No. 3296 (“Plan of Adjustment”).

**PRELIMINARY STATEMENT**

1. **JORGE F. GONZALEZ** is a party in interest in the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority’s (“PREPA”) Title III Bankruptcy. See 11 U.S.C. § 1109(b).
2. I, **JORGE F. GONZALEZ**, am a resident of San Juan, Puerto Rico. I live in a household of two people, including myself and my wife. We live in a condominium, and essentially pay two electricity payments: one for our personal apartment, and another for the condominium’s common areas, which includes electricity for security, elevators, lobby lights, etc. We are both retired. I, Jorge, retired ten years ago, and my wife has not been employed. To cover our everyday expenses, we depend exclusively on our Social Security benefits, which combined add up to \$3,500/month.
3. The question of who is a “party in interest” should be answered on a case-by-case basis. The definition is non-exhaustive. It generally refers to anyone with a financial stake or significant legal or practical stake in the outcome of bankruptcy. See, for example, Savage & Assocs. P.C. v. K&L Gates LLP (In re Teligent, Inc.), 640 F.3d 53 (2d Cir. 2011). That should mean anyone who will be significantly impacted.
4. **The Plan of Adjustment proposes to impose a Legacy Charge on the electric bills of residential and commercial customers for the next 35 years or more.** Already, our electricity payments are unreasonably high. My wife and I often spend our days avoiding

consuming electricity, and still we receive a monthly electricity bill of around \$460/month. We spend our nights turning off the A/C, avoiding consuming energy, and yet our electricity bills are increasingly high. In our condominium, these electricity payments are especially costly because we pay for electricity in both individual apartments and communal areas. My family can simply not afford any further energy increases, as the proposed Plan promotes. If the Proposed Plan is approved, our monthly payment will increase to around \$530/month, which represents about a 16% increase. In addition, I pay \$326/month for the condominium's maintenance. This amount is also surely to increase, because the condominium will have to pay more for communal area electricity, and these costs will be passed on to residents. When I add all of my monthly expenses (food, electricity, phone, health insurance, and transportation), I am only left with \$500/month. If the Proposed Plan is approved, and electricity rates continue increasing, my household will be forced into an extremely vulnerable financial position. With only \$500/month to survive after the most basic living expenses, my family can simply not afford any more increases in electricity.

5. Therefore, **JORGE F. GONZALEZ** is a party in interest that “may raise and may appear and be heard on any issue in a case under this chapter.” 11 U.S.C. § 1109(b).

### **PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND**

6. For over a decade, Puerto Rico's economy has been in trouble and, by 2016, its massive debt became unsustainable. On June 30, 2016, PROMESA was signed into law. 48 U.S.C. § 2101 et seq. It created Title III to allow the territory access to bankruptcy relief for its instrumentalities. On July 2, 2017, the Financial Oversight and Management Board for Puerto Rico (“Oversight Board”) initiated a Title III case for PREPA. On December 16, 2022, the Oversight Board filed the first *Title III Plan of Adjustment of the Puerto Rico Electric Power*

*Authority.* This has been amended 3 times. The current version of the Plan of Adjustment was filed on March 1, 2023.

### **LEGAL ARGUMENT**

7. Section 314 of PROMESA has the requirements for the confirmation of a Plan of Adjustment. 48 U.S.C. § 2174(b).

The Title III court shall confirm a plan of adjustment so long as certain requirements are met, including that: the debtor is not prohibited by law from taking any action necessary to carry out the plan; . . . any legislative, regulatory, or electoral approval necessary under applicable law in order to carry out any provision of the plan has been obtained, or such provision is expressly conditioned on such approval; . . . [and] the plan is feasible. Fin. Oversight & Mgmt. Bd. for P.R. v. Federacion de Maestros de P.R., Inc. (In re Fin. Oversight & Mgmt. Bd. for P.R.), 32 F.4th 67, 76 (1st Cir. 2022)(citation omitted).

8. The Plan of Adjustment is not feasible for the reasons stated in the expert declarations of Mr. Tom Sanzillo, ECF No. 3416; Dr. José I. Alameda Lozada, ECF No. 3417, Mr. Agustín Irizarry, ECF No. 3414.
9. “Under PROMESA, a plan of adjustment must be supported by financial projections that are ‘reasonable and demonstrate a probability that the debtor will be able to satisfy its obligations under the Plan.’” In re Fin. Oversight & Mgmt. Bd., 637 B.R. 223, 302-03 (D.P.R. 2022).
10. This means asking: “Is it likely that the debtor, after the confirmation of the Plan of Adjustment, will be able to sustainably provide basic municipal services to the citizens of the debtor and to meet the obligations contemplated in the Plan without the significant probability of a default?” Id.
11. The Plan of Adjustment will affect Puerto Rico’s economy and ratepayers, such as **JORGE F. GONZALEZ**. Therefore, PREPA will not be able to generate enough revenue and comply with its obligations to creditors or to the people of Puerto Rico. Because of this, the Plan of Adjustment is not feasible.

**CONCLUSION**

12. In conclusion, this Court should not confirm the Plan of Adjustment because it does not meet the requirements under PROMESA. Additionally, the confirmation of the Plan of Adjustment would cause great prejudice to **JORGE F. GONZALEZ** and the people of Puerto Rico.
13. PREPA's restructuring is very important, because electric power is necessary both for consumers and businesses alike. It is the driving force of Puerto Rico's economy. If PREPA's restructuring becomes too burdensome on the people and businesses of Puerto Rico, it will affect any possibility of economic growth and development.

**RELIEF REQUESTED**

**WHEREFORE, JORGE F. GONZALEZ** respectfully requests that the Court take notice of the above stated and deny the confirmation of the Plan of Adjustment.

**I HEREBY CERTIFY** that on this same date I conventionally filed the foregoing with the Clerk of the Court. A copy of this document will be emailed to case participants.

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, this 8<sup>th</sup> day of June 2023.

  
**JORGE F. GONZALEZ**  
*Pro se*

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